

# THE SCRIBE



**MAY-2021**

From Pastor Ken

## **Gradually Opening Up**

So much has changed over the past 14 months due to COVID.

We all worshipped online for two months. When we were able to meet, we were confronted with many changes; hand sanitizer, masks, distancing, and even new ways to commune. Thank you for your patience this past year.

Now we are beginning to open up:

1. Using bread, not wafers, for communion.
2. No longer requiring hand sanitizing (though still available).
3. Opening seating in all rows on the pulpit side of the sanctuary and leaving the organ side as is for greater distancing.

As our Worship committee, staff, and council continue to weigh steps to return to normal, we recognize that we have members at every point of the spectrum – from cautious to comfortable.

Thanks for being patient as we seek to address the needs of all.

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## **Joining Jesus on His Mission**

Jesus is risen. He's on the loose.

He's in our neighborhood, our work, our school.

He's working to give hope and healing, even to those who don't know him.

It's what he does. It's his mission. And he invites us to join him.

Greg Finke, author of the book "Joining Jesus on His Mission", is meeting with us on Tuesday, May 11 @ 7:00p via Zoom. Mark your calendars and plan to join in.

I also invite you to come to our ongoing adult class, Joining Jesus on His Mission, on Sunday mornings at 9:30a in the Fellowship Hall.

## Announcements

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**Young Adult Bible Study** @ 6:30p on May 1-Come for a time of games, fellowship, and Bible Study.

**Nursery is open!** The nursery is now open starting May 2. We are taking the ages of 6 weeks to 3 years old for the 8:00a and 10:30a services. And 4 to 7 years old for Wiggle Worship during the 10:30a service.

**BINGO** is back! May 6 at 6:30p in the Fellowship Hall. Lisa will be leading the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mid-Week BINGO break. Bring your favorite snack and test your luck while she calls out the numbers. Sign-up is on the board in the Fellowship Hall.

**Graduation**-Sunday, May 9. If you will be graduating from high school or college in May, please let Jacob know.

**The Prime Timers (50+)**-Our first event is scheduled for Saturday, May 15 at 10:00a, at the Paint Mines Interpretive Park in Calhan (located at 29950 Paint Mine Rd, Calhan, CO 80808), and then to Rooster's for lunch, also in Calhan (located at 1000 5th St, Calhan, CO 80808). Contact Bill Sessoms if you're interested in going.

**Spring Workday** is scheduled for Saturday, May 22 from 8:30a-12:30p. Duties include raking pine needles, trim/cut back plants in garden areas, prepping the sprinklers, bringing out patio furniture, and much more. Lunch will be provided. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the Fellowship Hall.

**Senior Social** – Every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month starting May 26 from 1:00-4:00p in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for our monthly get-together to socialize, play dominoes, or do crafts. Individuals bring their own crafts to work on. Others use the opportunity to just sit and talk.

### Sundays coming up!



May 9 Mother's Day  
Graduation Sunday  
May 30 Last 2 Sunday Services until September  
New Member Reception

**Fellowship Activities**-This Summer be watching for more ways to connect with our church community: BINGO night, cookout with lawn games, outdoor movie night, and board games night.

**Office Closures**-The office will be closing at Noon on Fridays in June, July, and August.

### Helping out!

✝ BFLC needs help with setup and take-down on Sundays when service is outside! Contact Mike Decker.



**La Puente**  
By Lavonne Hidy  
Social Ministry Committee

WHAT IS IT????

WHERE IS IT????

WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW????

Near the Southern border of Colorado, in the center of this state is a large area known as the San Luis Valley. For decades, this area has suffered from poverty and the accompanying homelessness, hunger, and other crises that destabilize families. La Puente, which means "The Bridge", was established in 1982 as a moral response to homelessness with a shelter in a church basement. Tremendous progress has been made through the years to address the effects of poverty by providing a safety net of services where individuals and families get what they need to stabilize, heal, strengthen, and ultimately thrive. One of Black Forest Lutheran Church's first contact with a La Puente was by Chaplin Gilbert and Melba Rose who arranged for 20 Easter baskets to be sent to Alamosa in the early 1990s. Our support has continued through the past years by:

- collecting and filling hygiene bags twice a year,
- sending non-perishable foods to help stock their numerous food pantries,
- made up 35 play pails for the younger children for a summer activity, and
- compiled numerous Christmas bags for children to make their own decorations.

Many colorful and warm quilts have been sent to La Puente each winter, of course, made by "our" quilters, along with their clever stuffed calico doggies. Our youth group has participated in gleaning the numerous farm fields for various local veggies in the fall harvest season. Seven tons of firewood was hauled from Black Forest to La Puente in 2016. Of course, we have continued the fun project of filling up to 200 Easter baskets or bags. The last two Covid years presented new challenges but we are optimistic that we can return to the assembly lines to fill the bags so our charge members can see and participate in filling the bags in the future. That's a summary of what BFLC has done to help La Puente. A helpful contribution for the future would be to have a list of drivers who would either drive the church van or their own vehicle to La Puente. A pick-up truck would be helpful at times. A trip in early fall and November would be timely. A wish list for La Puente is posted on the bulletin board in the social hall. Bring any contributions to the "laundry cart" and label for LaPuente.

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***Making a Special Impact***  
David Reily  
Chair, Mission Endowment Fund Committee

Are you looking to make an impact beyond the operational budget of our congregation? Members can exemplify Christ's ministry through contributions to the Mission Endowment Fund. This fund provides for a variety of mission-oriented work. A committee receives your donations and oversees management of the fund invested in our Edward Jones brokerage account. The committee looks for ways to use cash, appreciated securities, gifts of life insurance and real estate in unique ways not being addressed in the annual budget. Expenditures are limited each year, so the funds can grow over time. Currently, we are helping a Lutheran pastor obtain his Master's degree to continue to operate a seminary. To learn more about this unique fund or the group that manages it, contact David Reily or other members of the committee.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year for Black Forest Lutheran Church**

**1971 - 2021**

### ***A Little Bit of History***

*by Mike Decker*

If the greatness of a man can be judged by how well he handles a group of about a dozen obnoxious, rowdy, and impertinent 14 and 15-year-olds in a church youth group meeting, the first Pastor of Black Forest Lutheran Church, George Jacobsen, should be eligible for sainthood. As always with Pastor J., the story never ended with attempts at reining in the youthful exuberance of a bunch of teenagers who probably would have rather been anywhere else on a Wednesday evening.

Speaking from my own experience, I remember never really wanting to go to youth group meetings, but always glad I went when I got back home. Pastor Jacobsen's unique ability to connect with almost anyone, his dedication to making our get togethers meaningful in some unique way, strengthening our faith, adding importance to who we were and to what we might become, made our meetings memorable, and for me, had a lasting impact on how I have lived my life.

I believe it was 1972 during one meeting at our church that I knew for the first time that I was exactly where God wanted me to be; at the time he wanted me to be there.

Pastor Jacobsen closed every meeting with prayer, but on that evening, now almost 50 years ago, Pastor J. asked that we write a prayer request on a piece of paper and place it in the middle of the table. The small scraps of paper would be mixed up, and then each of us would draw one from the pile to think about and pray about in the coming week.

Before the pens and paper were even handed out, I knew I would be selecting Pastor's prayer request from the pile. I have no idea how I knew, but after as many years as I have been walking with the Lord Jesus, I'm discovering that coincidences are much rarer than we think, and that God always has a plan that makes even the most unlikely things happen just when and where we need them.

I did draw Pastor Jacobsen's prayer request from the dozen or so placed on the table where we were seated. I immediately recognized his handwriting as I had seen it many times before. But it was the message that clearly identified it as something our beloved first Pastor would be praying about in the coming week. It summed up his character, dedication, and commitment to not only our youth, but to the entire church he started here in Black Forest. I knew it was a prayer he would not dedicate merely to one week, but to every day, every week, every year.

Pastor's prayer request was, "Help the kids learn."

I kept Pastor Jacobsen's prayer request in my wallet for many decades, and sadly lost it about 10 years ago. Regardless, I know his prayers continue to this day for me, for us, for his church, for our world.

\* \* \*

### ***Didi in the Congo***

Ed Storey

Didi and Serafina are both ministering to the people of Boma. Over time, Didi have gotten the internet, his generator, and the electricity supply as good as might be expected for the DRC. He has had a bible study for farmers in Manterne. Farming is especially important because food insecurity is common.

Didi is hoping to come back to the US in May for more eye surgery and for Sarah's high school graduation. The trip will require more funding than he has available at present. If he can come, perhaps we could share some vegetable seed packages for him to take back to share with the local farmers. Since everything is grown by hand, the packets we have for home gardens are a good size.

## **Stuff the Truck!!**

*Serve one Another Humbly in Love – Galatians 5:13b*

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a Stuff the Truck event in support of the North American Lutheran Church Disaster Response Task Force. Thousands of people lost their homes and all their belongings this year due to hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, flooding, etc. The Disaster Response Task Force of the NALC was, and continues to be there to provide necessities and help to rebuild. NALC Disaster Relief works with anyone who needs help. This year they responded to 22 disasters and rebuilt 26 homes in Pensacola, FL.

In the midst of the above disasters, there was COVID-19. NALC Disaster Response provided face masks, sanitizing items including gloves and wipes to ambulance services, clinics and hospitals in several areas: thus, less focus on supplies.

During the month of May, we will have lists available of items most in need to resupply the disaster warehouses throughout our nation, or to be sent directly to current disaster areas. Flood buckets, health care kits, baby items and school kits are some of the items on the list. We encourage our members to select one kit to assemble as a family. We will hand these lists out between services.

An 8'x26' (10' height) truck will arrive at BFLC on **Saturday, June 26** to load our donations. Our hope is to fill it up! Several other congregations have been invited to participate in this campaign. Invite your friends to participate. NALC Disaster Relief works with anyone who needs help.

If possible, we ask that you keep your donations at home until June 26. We will let you know times later. If this doesn't work, we will take donations the week before. Another way to help is the gift of gift cards from Home Depot, Lowes or Walmart. If you have further questions, contact Ben Devolve, Lora Kobilan, Mary Montie or Kathy Schwindt.

Many of us remembering the Black Forest fire, know how helpful these items can be. This is another opportunity to make the invisible Jesus visible. Thank you!



### **MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

Judy & Paul Burke	2
Chuck & Pat Holte	2
Jonathan & Tiffaney Brooks	5
Shane & Lauren Swenson	5
Jim & Debbie Kent	7
Greg & Esme Wilhelm	8
Bob & Margaret Zancanella	23
John & Paige Summerfield	26
Dwight & Francesca Wahlborg	26
Harold & Sunny Wilson	27
Bob & Joyce Witte	27
Jacob & Emily Wolfe	27
Juan & Vanessa Corpus	30
Randy & Marcia Johnson	31



### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Lorraine Wallace	2	John Hartley	16
Karla Olson	3	Stephany Knox	16
Whitney Otis	3	Avelyn Ullom	17
John Poss	7	Aileen Sanders	18
Mark Robinson	8	Alex Kieffer	23
Zachary Sanders	9	Randy Pierce	25
Sean Williams	9	Liz Nieboer	27
Benjamin Turechek	10	Janet Masek	28
Shari Kraus	11	Sue Vigil	28
Tracey Debusk	12	Kirsten Hinderberger	29
Ekaterina Dirks	12	Keith Kraus	30
Jeanne Leitte	13	Mike Woods	31
Ric Maxson	14		



“Dear BFLC Family,  
Thanks to all my church friends for the cards and best wishes for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was overwhelmed!”  
—Freda Fry

I would like to thank Black Forest Lutheran Church Family for all the love and prayers and support they gave me during both my heart surgeries. The cards, phone calls, and prayers were deeply appreciated. The Holy Spirit lives and comforts and guides us.  
—Lorraine Wallace

From the La Puente guests, Shelter staff, and Americorps Members: “Thank you for your generous donation of hygiene kits, shoes and clothing. We greatly appreciate this high need item.”

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From the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS): Dear congregation of Black Forest Lutheran Church, I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$5,000 to support theological education and pastoral formation in the NALC.

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From the Family Promise of Colorado Springs: Thank you for your generous Hearts, Hope & Home Luncheon donation of \$1,000 received on March 1, 2021. We are ever grateful for your support!”.

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From the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.: On behalf of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc., I wish to extend to you our deepest gratitude for your donation of \$603 to the HCEF programs.

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From the Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp: Thank you for your recent gift of \$453 to Rainbow Trail’s Annual Fund. Your gift is helping us prepare for summer and planning for exciting programs that are coming during the fall retreat season.

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## **Greetings all Jacob here,**

As April comes to a close, I am reminded of all of the great things that God has provided for us so far. This month God provided beautiful sunny days as well as snow showers. He was so kind that He placed them only a few hours apart!

As was true of last month, this month we had the privilege of hosting most of our meetings in person. We have still been able to meet in person for most events and services and we are so excited to be able to do so. These have continued to be great times of talking and teaching. During the students' spring break, we also had several opportunities to get together for both one-on-ones and youth get togethers.

As we ended the season of Lent and continued into our normal schedule, the youth met in person every other Wednesday at 6:00p until 7:00p for our youth group. After youth group is confirmation class which goes until 8:00p. If you are interested in joining confirmation class next semester, just let me know.

As far as events are concerned, we are having our continued YA on May 1st. We will continue to be safe and distanced while also playing games, having the opportunity to chat with one another, and getting into the Word together as well. I look forward to where God leads this group in the future.

We also had an amazing youth group Easter this year. Although Covid still limited this event it was a time of joy in what Jesus did for us on the cross. After the youth-led Easter sunrise service, we had service as usual followed by an Easter egg hunt. It was such a joy watch these young students take part in THE GREAT HUNT.

Although current events have still limited our meetings, events, and activities, we are still offering Sunday school and Wiggle worship. We have enjoyed the time we have had to spend with the students during this time. I am also happy to announce that we are going to be doing our best to open the Nursery back up in early May. Keep your eyes on your email for when we might be able to do this.

As is true every month we put our hope and trust in God who is our strength and shield. I look forward to seeing what He has planned in the month of May.

For His glory,

Jacob Oglesby



***Check out Kids Corner on the website! Some fun interactive videos!***



# May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:00a Men's Bible Study 6:30p Young Adult
2 8:00a & 10:30a Worship 9:30 New Member Class Sunday School "Joining Jesus" Class	3 1:00p Women's Bible Study	4 11:30a Lecture Series	5 6:00p Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation	6 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Women's Bible St. Worship Comm. Mtg. Bingo	7	8 9:00a-12:00p Revive Women's Day
9 8:00a & 10:30a Worship 9:30 New Member Class Sunday School "Joining Jesus" Class Mother's Day Graduation Sunday	10 1:00p Women's Bible Study	11 11:30a Lecture Series 1:00p Mission Endowment 6:00p 4-H 7:00 Greg Finke Zoom Meeting "Joining Jesus on His Mission"	12 6:00p Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation 7:45 Cont. Worship <u>Prac.</u>	13 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Women's Bible St.	14 12:00p Exec. Mtg.	15 7:00a Men's Bible Study
16 8:00a & 10:30a Worship 9:30 New Member Class Sunday School "Joining Jesus" Class	17 1:00p Women's Bible Study	18 11:30a Lecture Series	19 6:00p Youth Group 7:00 Confirmation	20 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Women's Bible St. 7:00 Council	21	22 8:30a-12:30p Spring Workday
23 8:00a & 10:30a Worship 9:30 New Member Class Sunday School "Joining Jesus" Class	24 1:00p Women's Bible Study	25 11:30a Lecture Series	26 1:00p Senior Social	27 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg.	28	29
30 8:00a & 10:30a Worship 9:30 New Members Received New Member Reception "Joining Jesus" Class	31 					



## REVIVE!!

Saturday, May 8, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Black Forest Lutheran Church – Fellowship Hall

Join us for a day to refresh, rejuvenate and REVIVE your MIND, BODY and SPIRIT!

Spring and Mother's Day are here! What better way to revive than spending a day focused on you and your mental, physical and spiritual well-being!

### **Special Guest Speaker – Michelle Mras**

Michelle lives in Meridian Ranch in Falcon and is an International TEDx Speaker, Communication Trainer, Success Coach, Author and co-host of an international podcast. Michelle is a survivor of multiple life challenges to include a Traumatic Brain Injury and her on-going battle with Breast Cancer. Michelle's driving thought is that every day is a gift. Tomorrow is never promised. Every moment is an opportunity to be the best version of you... Unapologetically!

All women over the age of 18 are welcome! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

A \$5.00 donation is appreciated to cover breakfast costs.

Contact Lisa at the church office to register – [bflc@bflchurch.org](mailto:bflc@bflchurch.org) or 719-495-2221



May 2021 SCRIBE

#### OUR MISSION

Black Forest Lutheran Church glorifies God through worship, prayer, education, and service as ambassadors of Christ.

#### CONTACT US

Phone: 719-495-2221

Fax: 719-495-2222

E-mail: [bfic@bfchurch.org](mailto:bfic@bfchurch.org)

Web site: [bfchurch.org](http://bfchurch.org)

#### OUR STAFF

Pastor – Kenneth D. Hohag

Youth/Family Ministries Director – Jacob Oglesby

Director of Ministries – Lisa Regennitter

Administrative Assistant – Michelle Madison

Organist – Barbara Gurnett

Choir Director – Melanie Hohag

Handbell Choir Director – Bill Fitzpatrick

Keyboard – Landra Decker/Alexandra Cullen

Ministers – All Members

#### OFFICE HOURS

##### Weekday Hours

9:00am-2:00 pm Tuesday-Friday

Sunday Worship 8:00a & 10:30a (Mask required.)

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#### BLACK FOREST LUTHERAN CHURCH

12455 Black Forest Road

Colorado Springs, CO 80908

**Recipient Name**

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code